

CZECHOUT

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(c) Czechoslovak PS of GB

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EDITORIAL

It has been said many times that the humble postage stamp can be likened unto the issuing state's business or visiting card to the world outside its territory. Whilst not claiming this to be a maxim, there is an element of truth in it. "Is it really like that there?" we sometimes say on gaining our first impressions from the little piece of paper in our hand. The first official Bulletin for PRAGA 88 arrived quite recently and, if 'first impressions' are important to the reader, then this publication is, sadly, a great disappointment. Czechoslovakia has issued some of the finest stamps over the 70 years since 1918 and this is recognised worldwide. Why then was so little attention paid to the English language sections of BULLETIN NO.1 before printing? So many inaccuracies of grammar, spelling errors, too and, it seems, almost no grasp at all of the colloquialisms of modern English. Even if we overlook all this (and we should not) we are left with repetitive statements by different writers throughout andsome phrases do not even make common sense. There can be no real excuse for this shoddy output because Czechoslovakia produces some excellent pieces of literature in English where readers would be hard pressed indeed to find the tiniest error. This Bulletin is published in no less than six different languages - English is just one of them - to be sent out worldwide to advertise PRAGA 88; Let us hope that someone in the (philatelic) corridors of power in Prague will spot this in time for the next issues of Bulletins to be checked more thoroughly. However, all is not 'doom and gloom' listen to this very charming sentence from page 24 (in English, of course): "In the exhibition halls and safes there will be secured optimal climatic conditions and indirect lightning". Let's hope it strikes lucky for some! We wish PRAGA 88 and its organisers every possible success. We shall support and report on it to the best of our ability.

OUR SUMMER MEETING 1987

At the kind invitation of Fred and Yvonne Gren we met at the Shoreham-by-Sea Community Centre to be entertained and educated (philatelically speaking) by Yvonne Wheatley. Although the weather could have been kinder perhaps, the warmth of friendship and kindred spirits was a great alternative. We thoroughly enjoyed Yvonne's lovely display of what we shall entitle CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S HISTORY THROUGH ITS POSTAGE STAMPS. From pre-stamp days, through the second world war (a postcard from Theresianstadt saying 'We are being moved and our new address will follow soon'). That move was to the gas chambers elsewhere! On to more modern times with colourful essays and colour trials through many years. One would go to many meetings and still not see such material. Chairman Reg Hounsell thanked Yvonne on behalf of all present. Sadly our President was still unable to be with us due to poor health so we all signed and commented a lovely greetings card to Kay Goodman from the meeting. In the evening about twenty members and friends sat down to Dinner at the Beach Hotel, Worthing - just down the road a bit! After a jolly evening and feeling inwardly quite content, we finally made our respective ways homeward with happy thoughts on this - another Summer meeting by the sea. Thank You, Fred and Yvonne for all the hard work and organising you did on our behalf and for our enjoyment!

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

At the Czechoslovak Club, London at 2.30pm on Saturday September 5. We shall be welcoming our visitor from the Society of Postal Historians, Mr. R.L. Johnson who will display and speak on his collection of "SERVICE SUSPENDED" MAIL. Do please try to attend if you can and support Mr. Johnson.



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CURRENT PHILATELIC LITERATURE

"Czechoslovak Specialist" (USA):

Mar.87: Czechoslovak Fieldpost in Western Bohemia. April 87: Illegal Usage of the 5h Rapid Delivery stamp of 1919; Czechoslovak Fieldpost in GB.

"Stamps of Hungary" (Magyar PS of GB):

Issue No. 89: Bilingual Cancellations in Southern Slovakia 1920-1938 (Dr. Z. Palatos). Tabori Posta (Field Posts) 1914-1918 (Pt.II) by J. Dixon-Nuttall (Pt.1 appeared in Issue No. 88).

"Filatelie" (Prague):

9/10 of 87: Czechoslovak Fieldposts 1938/39 by Jaromir Leimberger. 10/87: Registration Labels in Slovakia since 1986 by Dušan Brabec. 8/87: 50 Years of Praha-Ruzyně Airport by Petr Horka.

N.B. All the above items are held in the Society Library.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY:

"Field Post of Czech Army 1938" - Hans Schrattenbach; published by Die Briefmarke, Vienna 1973.

In German. Kindly donated by Mr. Ron Hollis

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OBITUARY

The Society deeply regrets to announce the death of member Mr. E. Renshaw of Leeds in late February. A letter of condolence has been sent to Mr. Renshaw's family.

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APPEAL

Mr. Michael Svenger of Ilford, Essex is asking if any members have good quality CZECHOSLOVAK ALBUM LEAVES which they wish to dispose of for 1959-1970 (with or without stamps). Michael will be most grateful for any help members can offer him in this direction. Replies: c/o: Editor in first place.

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MRS KAY GOODMAN

It is with pride that we announce that our Hon. Life President has been granted Honorary Membership of BPF by the Council of the Federation for her services to Philately. As a collector, Kay's interests, apart from Czechoslovakia, have included Japanese commemoratives and Ant-Tuberculosis, a thematic reflection of her personal and courageous fight against ill health. Apart from her well-known activities for the Melville Committee, Kay was also prominent in the last two London International Exhibitions. We offer Kay our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

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CORRIGENDUM

A vital error crept into the article "THE FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL POSTAGE STAMPS" (issue 1/87). Please make the following alteration for the sake of accuracy. The Editor's thanks to Roy Dehn for pointing out this error which also appeared in the bibliographical 'source' for this article: Page 5, Para 2., line 1: Delete 'lithographic' and insert 'letterpress'.

S.G. CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE LEGIONARY ISSUE OF 1919



Roy A Dehn

Towards the end of 1985 GIBBONS issued the third edition of their green catalogue devoted to Czechoslovakia and Poland. This catalogue, which is Pt.5 of their range of European catalogues, is the first to reach a third edition, which suggests a lively interest among collectors in these two countries. There were a few interesting price changes, which will be discussed later. The most interesting novelty, however, is the extended cataloguing of the perforation varieties of the so-called LEGIONARY ISSUE of 1919. These are listed as Nos 61-66 with the addition of small letters b-f.

It is not presently the practice of Gibbons to differentiate between comb and line perfs. and they measure perfs. only to the nearest half. Since forged perfs. are usually line and not quite accurate, Gibbons' policy may make the task of forgers easier.

The first group, which Gibbons lists simply as 61-66 and perf $13\frac{1}{2}$, is comb perforated and actually measures $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ (lion types) and $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (mother and child types). Wherever the two gauges of perf. are given for this series, the order is reversed for the mother/child design which is in landscape shape compared with the portrait shape of the lion stamps. In the comb perf. series, therefore, the top perf. of the lion design is $13\frac{1}{2}$ and that of the mother/child design $13\frac{3}{4}$. The remaining perfs. are all line. This is unfortunate because line perfs. are easier to fake than comb and, because this series can be obtained imperforate and so easier to provide with fake perfs. of the scarce types. Of the line perforations the common one measures $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ (vice-versa for mother/child). This perf. is only scarce when associated with shade varieties of the 15h and 25h and, when it occurs on the 50h. In my copy of the SG cat., apparently by misprint, no prices are given for this value. All the remaining perf. varieties are less common. The more accurate measurement of SG61-66d is $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Because Gibbons do not differentiate between 'line' and 'comb' and because they do not measure down to a $\frac{1}{4}$, they cannot list a scarce line perf. $13\frac{3}{4}$ variety of the 120h. They also do not mention some scarce, mixed perfs. found on the lion design (e.g. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$: $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ and other variations of this group). For reasons I do not understand Novotný in his table prints the $13\frac{3}{4}$ figure as 13" throughout. I think this must be printer's error, though it might indicate a belief that the $13\frac{3}{4}$ line perf. is irregular; I have not found it so. The recent Czech SPECIALIZOVANÝ KATALOG also gets the common comb perforation wrong, listing it as $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ or $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ when it should be $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ or $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. I have not personally come across any of the more unusual perforation varieties of this series, although the stamps are quite common unused and with souvenir cachets. It is surprising that Gibbons does not mention the cachets.

The series is an interesting one. It was issued on 27 October to mark the first anniversary of liberation. Its postal use was valid only between 28 October and 3 November. It was not often used for postage so the stamps are not common with genuine postmarks; the cachet is NOT a postmark. Both the designs were by J. Obrovský and differ so radically that they scarcely form a series. This is difficult to explain since most Czechoslovak stamps show an awareness of unity in design. The 'Lion' design was printed letterpress and the 'Mother/Child' design by gravure. This was only the second time that gravure had been used for printing stamps; its first use was by Bavaria in 1914. The standard of printing was very high and very few flaws can be detected which makes differentiation of the two panes difficult, if not impossible as far as isolated stamps or small multiples are concerned. In view of the high standard of printing it seems certain that the stamps were printed at the United Czech Printing Company, Prague and not, as Gibbons and Michel state, by the Czech Army's cartographic section.

The Lion design was enlarged photographically and after the three different values had been pasted onto the photograph, reduced to stamp-size and transferred to zinc letterpress plates. Two panes each of a hundred stamps were prepared. One setting consisted of four panes, two of

LEGIONARY ISSUE ... cont:

the 25h alongside and inverted at the top and two of the 15h alongside at the bottom. So, before guillotining, the top rows of the two 25h panes and the top rows of the two 15h panes were tête-bêche with a gutter between. The 50h was printed on its own in two tête-bêche panes. The gravure design was printed in two panes one on top of the other - but not tête-bêche. There were single plates each of the two panes of the 100h and the 120h but, for reasons which are not now known, two plates of the 75h were used, each of two panes. The number of 75h stamps issued was the same as for other values. The pane numbers of the 75h value are found in the margin below the 91st stamp (R10/1) and are 1,2,3 and 4. For the 100h, the pane numbers 5 and 6 are found in the same position. Those for the 120h, 7 and 8 are found below the 100th stamp (R10/10). At the bottom of the panes, in the lower margin, are figures which total the successive value of the stamps in the column above; this enabled postal clerks to calculate the value of stamps remaining in a sheet when stock-taking. These take the form of 1'50 or 3'- with the decimal point appearing at the top, not the foot, of the figure. Where these figures are attached to the bottom row of stamps they enable the pane to be identified - for the letter-press stamps. On the 15h pane the figure 3 appears under the 92nd stamp. If it is not followed by two short lines, this indicates pane 1. If a line and a dot follow, pane 2 is indicated. The identification of the 25h panes is less distinct. Under the last column the figures 25 appear. If the line following this is regular then this is pane 1; if there is a swelling at the end like a match-head, it is pane 2. Under the 91st stamp of the pane of 50h values, the figure 5 appears. If the dash (-) after it is short, the pane is number 1; if it is long (—) it indicates pane 2. Pane 2 for this value can also be identified by three dots (...) instead of a line after 50. Under stamp 100 by a line AND dot instead of just a line after 50 and by a line and dot instead of just a line after 40 under stamp 98.

SOME FLAWS

The standard of plate-making for the HRADČANY issue was such that there were a number of small flaws which have enabled collectors to identify plates and several positions on the plates. I do not think there were any clear flaws in the gravure plates for the mother/child design, so particular positions cannot be identified for the three higher values. The letter-press plates were also very good and regular. However, we can identify two or three interesting flaws:

- 15h: Pos. 10: Coloured dot in a white circle by hair on hindquarters of the lion (Thirkell F8) - (Pane 2).
 Pos. 80: Dot in the Roman figure X (Pane 1): reported by Novotný. I have not seen this.
- 25h: Pos. 91: Fetter joined to lion's hair (Th.F6). The hair is usually just separated from the top of the fetter.
 Pos. 22: Broken border above š in Pošta. I have not seen this.
- 50h: Pos. 60: Line in margin above ...NSKÁ (Pane 2).
 Pos. 67: Two clear lines - one quite thick - between value circle and the BR in Obrovsky in SW corner (Pane 2).
 Pos. 10: Line on hindquarters of lion (Pane 1) reported by Novotný and in the Cs Spec. Cat (SK). SK does not mention the very clear and constant flaw at Pos. 67 and says the flaw at Pos. 60 is Pane 1, which it is NOT by my definition of the panes. Novotný also reports a flaw at Pos. 22 above the š in Pošta (see 25h above) but I have not seen this.

The pane numbering of the Lion stamp is presumably arbitrary. I have followed the order of description (since panes are not described as 1 or 2) given in the Monograph 2 (table 2 on p.14). SK have numbered the panes (at least of the 50h) in the opposite order.

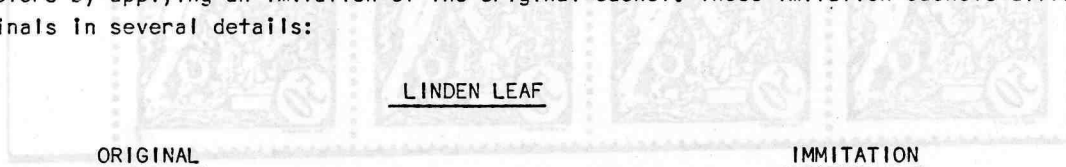
LEGIONARY ISSUES OF 1919 (cont..)

Collectors buying rare perfs are advised to have them expertly checked. Not only are imperf examples available on which 'rare' perfs can be contrived but the method of line-perf creates differences in margin widths possible thus increasing opportunities for faking. Such opportunities are further increased by the faker having only to alter two sides to turn a common $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ into a rare $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. In genuine stamps the perforation line on one side should be exactly parallel to that on the opposite side. Furthermore, every slight difference made by individual perforator pins when punching the stamp paper should be exactly reproduced on the equivalent perf on the other side of stamp.

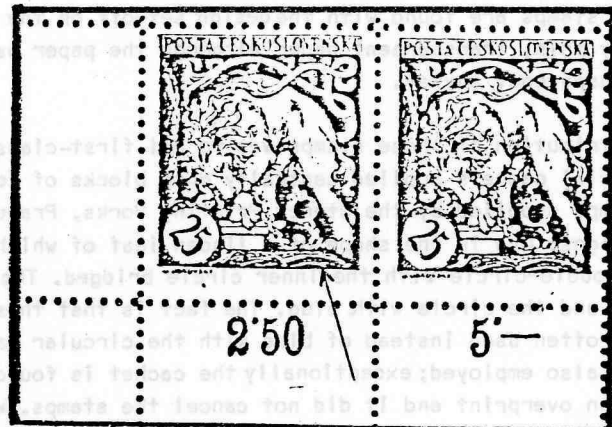
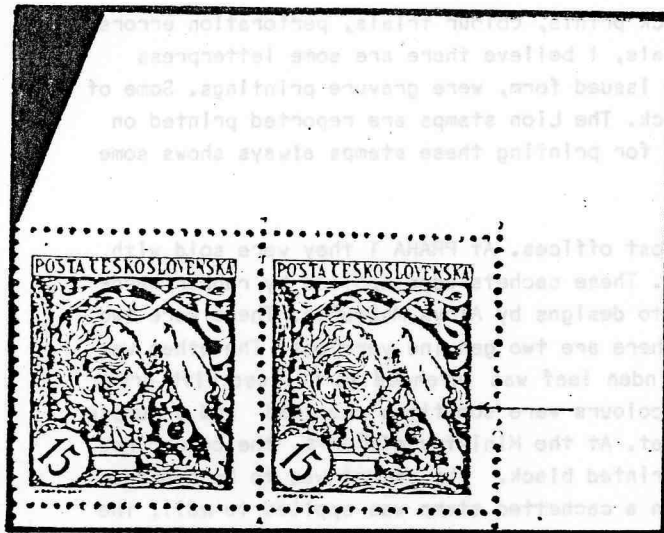
As with other Czechoslovak stamps of this period, black prints, colour trials, perforation errors and printers waste are all available. Amongst the trials, I believe there are some letterpress versions of the mother-and-child stamps which, in the issued form, were gravure printings. Some of the stamps are found with the design set-off on the back. The Lion stamps are reported printed on very thin, transparent paper although the paper used for printing these stamps always shows some transparency anyway.

Distribution of these stamps was to all first-class post offices. At PRAHA 1 they were sold with special cachets applied centrally onto blocks of four. These cachets were applied by rubber hand-stamps supplied by the Stencu Printing Works, Prague to designs by Aloys Mudruška. There were two designs: One in the shape of a linden leaf of which there are two genuine versions. The other was a double-circle with the inner circle bridged. The linden leaf was intended to be used with green ink and the circle with blue. The fact is that these colours were sometimes reversed and a purple was often used instead of blue with the circular cachet. At the Ministry of Posts, the colour red was also employed; exceptionally the cachet is found printed black. The cachet was to be regarded as an overprint and it did not cancel the stamps. When a cachetted stamp was applied to mail, the regulations provided for the date stamp to be applied alongside - not upon - the stamp. All the cachets carried the legend SIROTÁM PO LEGIONÁŘÍCH (For ORPHANS OF LEGIONNAIRES); as did the mother-and-child stamps. For the application of a cachet a charge of 40h was made for this particular charity. Across the centre was the legend PRAHA 1. Beneath this, in the linden leaf, is the date 28/X-3/X1 / 1919 (in two lines). This date is the period of validity of the series. In the circular cachet the date appears above the bridge - also in two lines - but with 1919 above the date rather than below. The two versions of the linden leaf are similar, differing only in two details: In Type 1 the stalk at the top of the leaf is wedge-shaped with concave sides; in Type 2 the wedge is smaller and the sides are straight. In Type 1 the 3 in 3/X1 has a clear, flat top; in Type 2 this top is very small, the figure looking almost like a '5' without a top.

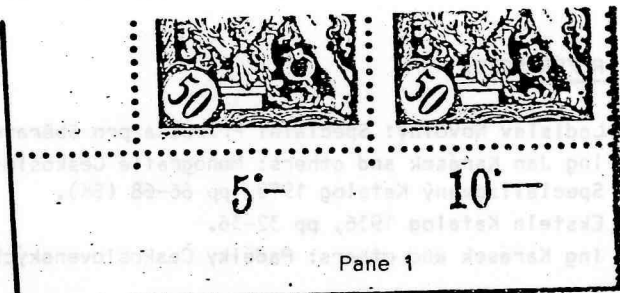
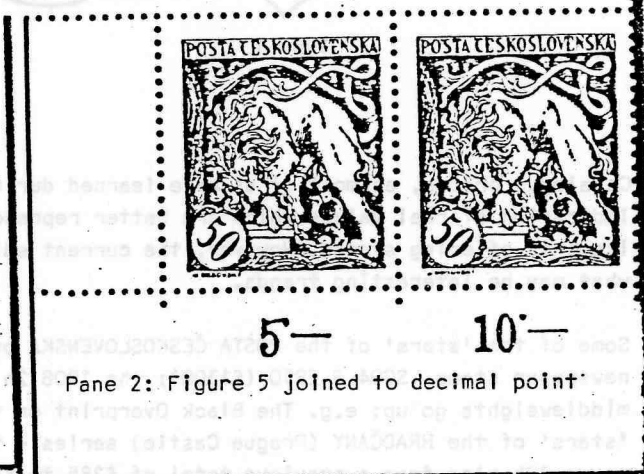
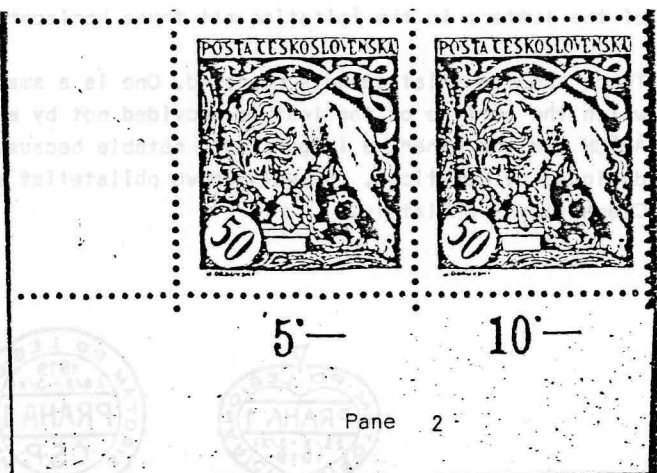
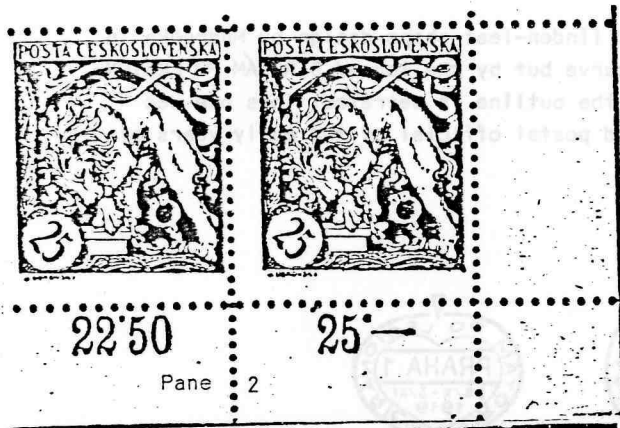
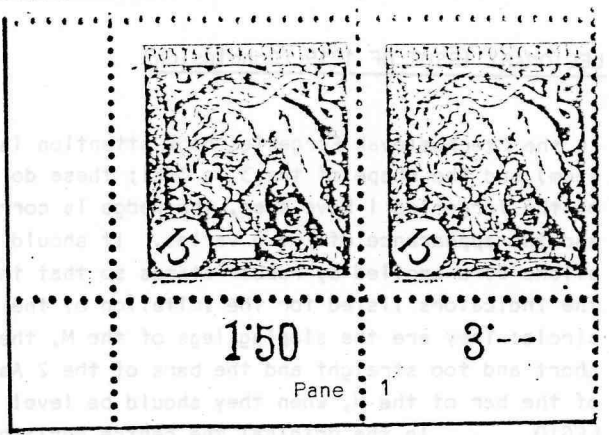
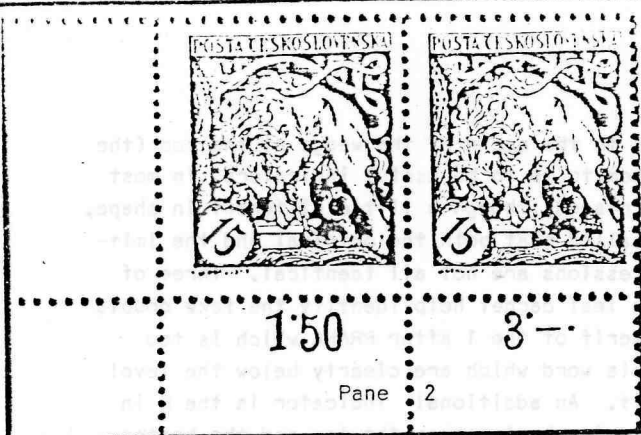
The large number of stamps printed - 5 million series - far exceeded requirements for the short period of validity. The remaining 3.5m were given to a charitable fund for the legionaries but, despite all their efforts they were unable to sell them all, finally being offered to dealers at a small fraction of their face value. Attempts were made to make these remainders more attractive to collectors by applying an imitation of the original cachet. These imitation cachets differ from the originals in several details:



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In SIROTÁM the axis of the S points to the centre of the cachet. The legs of the M are vertical. The O is a flattened oval. 2. In PO, the top of the P is unbroken. 3. In PRAHA the bars of the A^s and the H are almost on the same level. The serif at the top of the l after PRAHA is long and curved. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The axis of the S is vertical and the legs of the M are angled outward. The O is less regularly and clearly oval. The P is open at the top. The bar of the H is higher than that of the two A^s.
The serif is short and straight. |
|--|---|



- A: Position 10 - Ring by lion's tail
- B: Position 91 - Fetter joined to hair
- C: Positions 60 and 67 on block from Pane 2



LEGIONARY ISSUE OF 1919 (Conclusion)

In the Czechoslovak Forgeries book attention is drawn to the angle of the wedge at the top (the stem) and the shape of the 3 in 3/XI; these do not seem to me to be useful indicators. In most of the forgeries I have seen, the wedge is correctly placed, though a little different in shape, and the appearance of the 3 varies. It should be recalled that both the original and the imitations were applied by rubber stamps so that the impressions are not all identical. Three of the indicators listed for the imitation of the linden leaf cachet help identify the fake double circle: They are the sloping legs of the M, the top serif of the 1 after PRAHA which is too short and too straight and the bars of the 2 As in this word which are clearly below the level of the bar of the H, when they should be level with it. An additional indicator is the E in LEGIO..... In the original the centre horizontal bar is shorter than the top and the bottom of the letter; in the imitation all three horizontal lines are of equal lengths.

There are two trial cachets reported. One is a small linden-leaf-shape design by Mudruška in which the outline of the leaf is provided not by a curve but by the legend SIROTÁM PO LEGIONÁŘÍCH and the other, a larger leaf, notable because the outline is serrated. This one was designed by Lešetický, the well-known philatelist and postal official of the early years of Czechoslovak philately.



Type 1



Type 2

Catalogue prices, as most of us have learned during the past decade are, at least, only an indication of real values which are better represented by auction results and dealers' advertisements offering stamps. However, the current edition of the SG (Pt. 5) catalogue does indicate what may be interesting trends.

Some of the 'stars' of the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ overprints come down in price, e.g. the 1908 newspaper stamp SG94 @ £950 (£1300); the 1908 2h postage-due SG104 at £1700 (£2750) and the middleweights go up: e.g. The Black Overprint on the 1K SG 82a up from £55 to £100. The imperf. 'stars' of the HRADČANY (Prague Castle) series - the yellow-green 10h, the carmine 20h and the mauve 30h rise from a previous total of £285 to £365. The first (imperf.) Air stamps are down from £155 to £89 which is scarcely surprising since there always seems to be of lot of them about!

Roy A. Dehn.

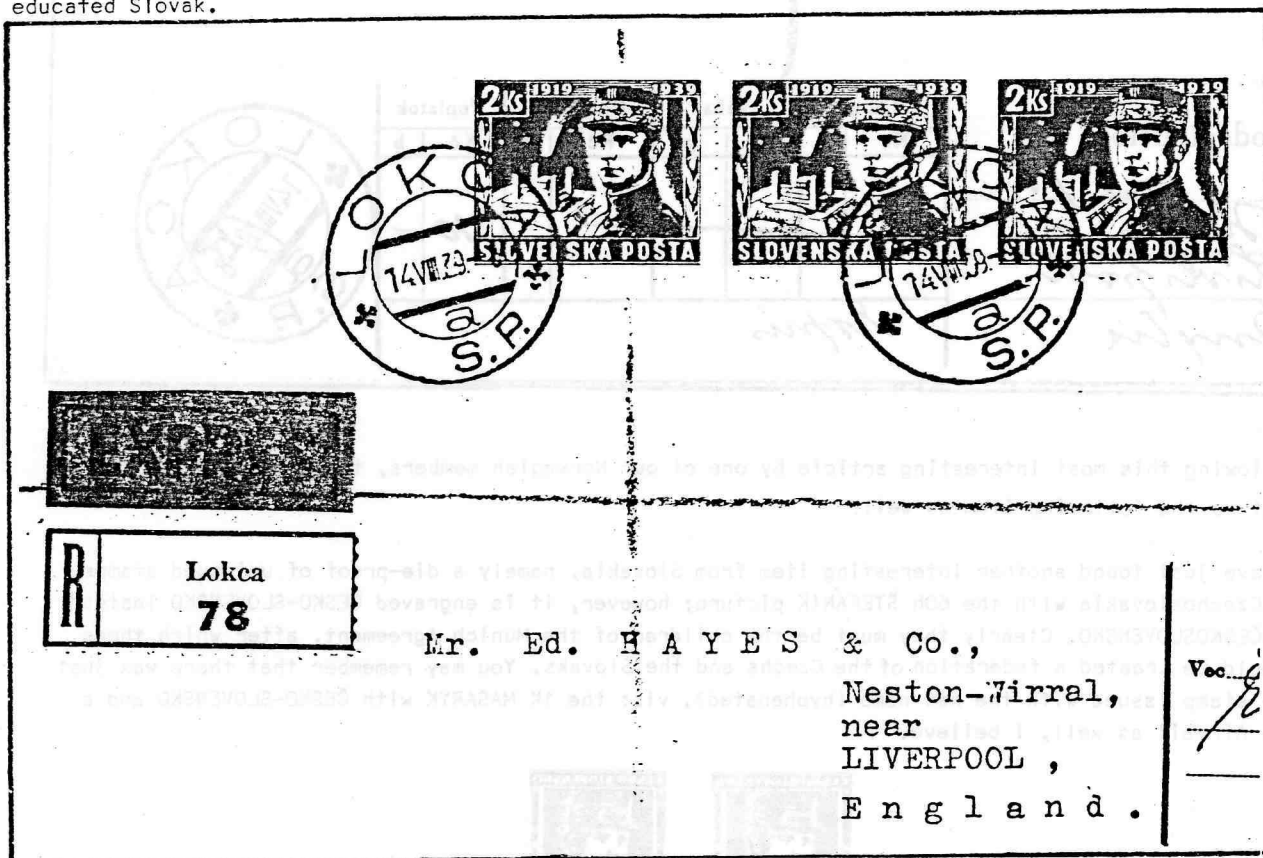
REFERENCES:

- Ladislav Novotný: Speciální Příručka pro Sběratele Československých Známek, pp 80-84. (Novotný).
 Ing Jan Karásek and others: Monografie Československých Známek, Vol. II. (Monografie).
 Specializovaný Katalog 1978, pp 66-68 (SK).
 Ekstein Katalog 1936, pp 32-36.
 Ing Karásek and others: Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek 1918-1939, pp 57-69

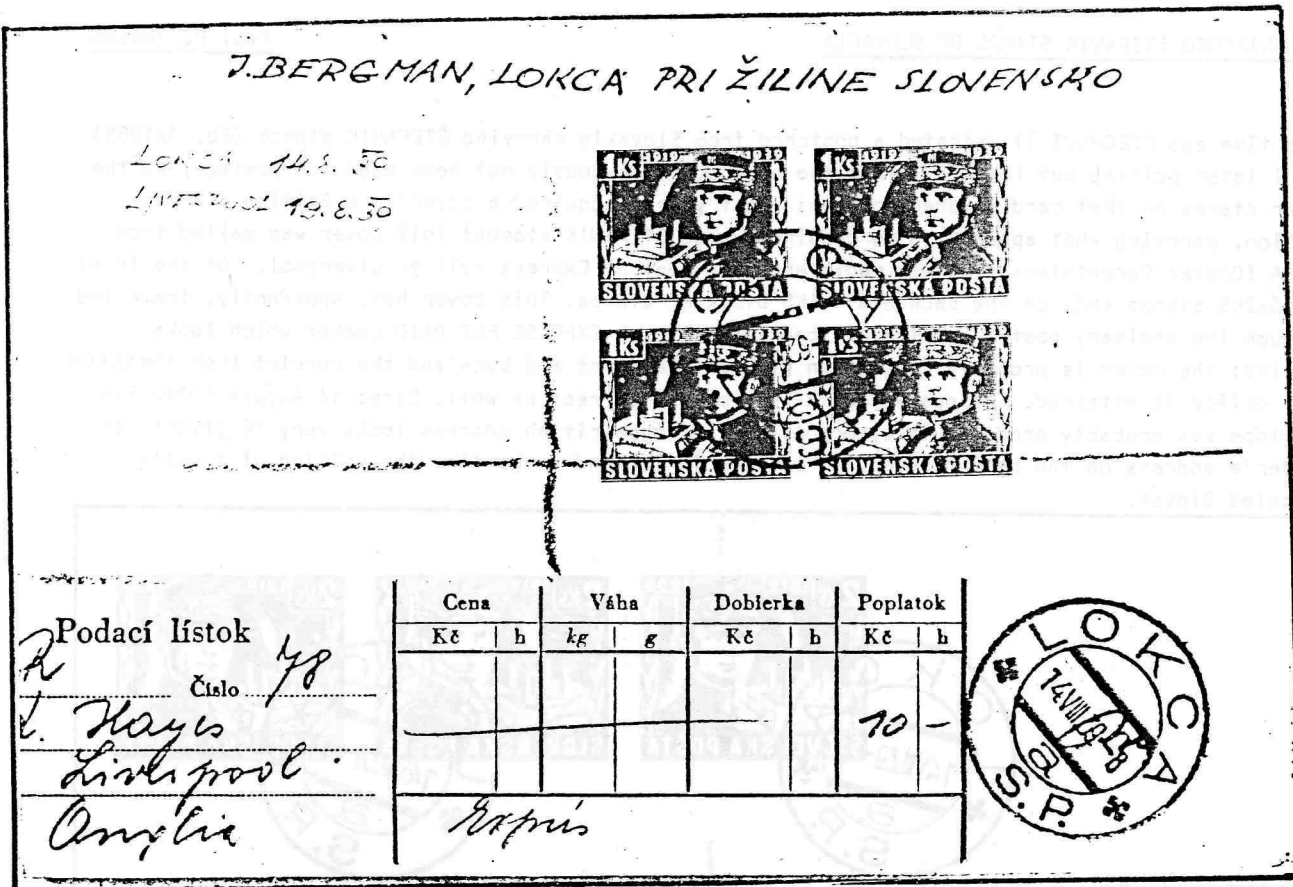
THE UNISSUED ŠTEFÁNIK STAMPS OF SLOVAKIA

Paul H. Jensen

Some time ago CZECHOUT illustrated a postcard from Slovakia carrying ŠTEFÁNIK stamps (Ed. 3/1985) and I later pointed out (Ed.4/85) that the stamps had obviously not been used for postage, as the other stamps on that card covered postage. Last year I acquired a cover in a British stamp auction, carrying what appears to be genuinely used ŠTEFÁNIK stamps! This cover was mailed from LOKCA (Orava: Carpathians); it was registered and sent by Express mail to Liverpool. On the front are 3x2KS stamps and, on the back are 4x1KS block of stamps. This cover has, apparently, travelled through the ordinary postal service. It carries a Slovak EXPRESS FEE PAID cachet which looks genuine; the cover is properly crossed in blue on the front and back and the receipt from the LOKCA post office is attached. The postage rate is probably correct as well. Date: 14 August 1939. The envelope was probably produced in Liverpool and the typewritten address looks very 'English'. The sender's address on the back however, is written in ink and looks like the writing of a well-educated Slovak.



My theory is that stamps of the ŠTEFÁNIK issue came onto the market in the summer of 1939. Some had obviously found their way to the English market fairly quickly. Whether Hayes & Co. were dealers or not I cannot say; perhaps some of our members in that area could verify for us; they certainly had a correspondent in Slovakia. In all probability, a franked cover was sent to Mr. Bergman by Ed. Hayes & Co. with a request to get it into the mails somehow. Again, LOKCA, being a small village in the Carpathians, had a lot of holidaying tourists during the summer holidays. The postmaster would probably have not been very suspicious about a philatelic cover posted by a tourist - or even a resident - in the hot August just preceding the outbreak of World War II. He or she might even have been patriotic enough to overlook the forbidden stamps showing ŠTEFÁNIK in a French uniform. As there was yet no official censorship and an Express cover was given immediate preference, the risk would not have been too great. Even if philatelic in origin, this cover with unissued and forbidden stamps has obviously been carried through the mails and, as such, is an interesting piece of Slovak postal history. (Cont.....)



Following this most interesting article by one of our Norwegian members, the writer, Paul Jensen sent us the following item as well:

I have just found another interesting item from Slovakia, namely a die-proof of unissued stamps of Czechoslovakia with the 60h ŠTEFÁNIK picture; however, it is engraved ČESKO-SLOVENSKO instead of ČESKOSLOVENSKO. Clearly they must be the children of the Munich Agreement, after which there should be created a federation of the Czechs and the Slovaks. You may remember that there was just one stamp issued with the new name (hyphenated), viz: the 1K MASARYK with ČESKO-SLOVENSKO and a 30h Airmail as well, I believe.



black



violet

Obviously the engraving and printing authorities were not in a hurry over this change. The 60h ŠTEFÁNIK in blue which was issued for use only in Slovakia in March 1939 was made with the old plates and the old dies.

These die-proofs are in black and violet respectively although obviously this will not show at all when reproduced in black and white.

(Editor's note: I had to ask for a lighter copy of the face of the Liverpool letter for better reproduction purposes. On Paul's original photo-copy however, the express fee paid cachet does show but very faintly. The surprising thing is that it appears to be in ENGLISH! I can certainly read as follows: EXPRES? FEE PAID enclosed in horizontal box).

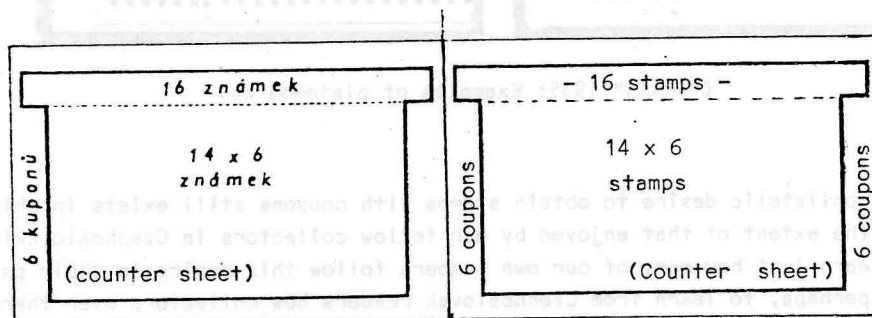
WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A.K.

Glance at any specialised catalogue and one will soon confirm the sometimes great difference in values between stamps 'with' and those 'without' attached coupons (or 'tabs'). This must prove the continued existence of sections of the philatelic fraternity which prefer to collect stamps 'with' coupons still attached rather than the single stamp. We know that Israel long ago saw such a trend and utilised it and still does with some beautifully illustrated coupons with their issues. Czechoslovakia too, has, for many years, recognised the philatelic importance of such appendages.

Large format stamps appeared for the first time in Czechoslovakia in 1935 with designs measuring either 23x30mm or 30x23mm. Normal counter sheets (as issued to post offices) could actually be of 112 stamps of this size but for practical reasons, only 100 were printed on these sheets, leaving 12 blank fields (or coupons). With the horizontal stamps there were six coupons to each of the left/right sides; with vertical stamps, the coupons were set above/below the stamps. Czechoslovak Monograph No.3 show these exact arrangements (see illustration) which remained in force for 14 yrs.

One would think that with coupons of similar numbers both above/below and side/side would offer little or no disparity but the praxis proves the contrary. According to POFIS the set issued in 1935 (20th Anniv: Battle of Arras), the stamps with coupons ABOVE are quoted at 500% over the price of the 'below' coupons! It is necessary to add here that at the time of the printing of the last POFIS cat., such prices fully corresponded to the real, domestic demand in Czechoslovakian market. What then, is the reason for such huge and disproportionate values? Furthermore - and even more important for us - is the question "Does the same apply here in the U.K. market?"



(1935 (20th Anniv: Battle of Arras - Plate layout for values 1 and 2Kc)

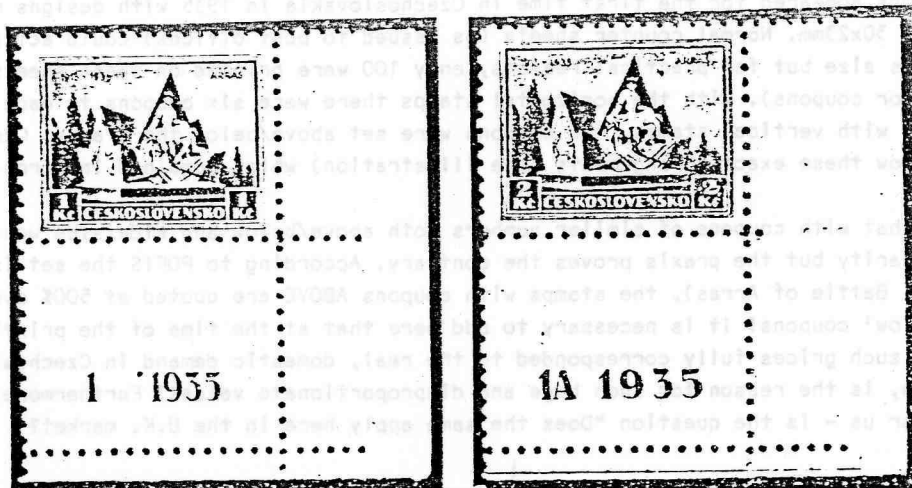
During the 1930s the great vogue was to collect plate-marks. With the ARRAS set the relative plate-mark was printed on the coupon BELOW the 99th stamp in the bottom right-hand corner of the sheet. Contemporary collectors searching for these plate-marks, would buy the relative stamps with the coupons, usually in larger blocks/strips and, with this particular set, they had to contend with TWO plate-marks: "1" and "1A". At first, the stamps with coupons 'above' were not usually valued above 'face' and were simply used for normal postage - after the removal of the coupons! When the stamps continued however, to be issued in the larger sizes - and with coupons - the interest in the coupons began to expand, especially when they suddenly appeared with texts or symbols printed on them. This interest arose very quickly with the appearance of such coupons attached to the "J.E. PURKYŇE" set of 1936, with great demand for stamps and coupons combined. Both stamps of this set were issued in sheets of 100 stamps/12 inscribed coupons.

Lately, the shortage of stamps with coupons has been felt by collectors, resulting in increased catalogue prices in Czechoslovakia. Such an example can be found with the CHILDREN set of 1936, with a great demand for stamps with 'tabs' right - the side not providing any plate-marks.

(cont. next page.....)

The higher POFIS catalogue price of 'coupons-right' with the "CZECH NATIONAL ANTHEM" set of 1934 again confirm this theory because the plate-mark for this set was placed on the left-hand side coupon, near the 96th stamp.

This issue did however have another arrangement of stamps: the counter-sheet of 100 stamps was completed with 20 BLANK coupons; they appear to the left and to the right.



("ARRAS" 1935: Examples of plate-marks)

I believe that this philatelic desire to obtain stamps with coupons still exists in this country but perhaps not to the extent of that enjoyed by our fellow collectors in Czechoslovakia. It will be interesting to learn just how many of our own members follow this desire in their personal collections - and, perhaps, to learn from Czechoslovak readers how collectors over there treat these very desirable items in terms of today's ultra modern and sometimes trendy world of stamps.

CAN YOU TRANSLATE CZECH TO ENGLISH?


We have recently been given express permission by the editor, to freely translate any article appearing in FILATELIE, the Czechoslovak philatelic magazine. We are most grateful for this because FILATELIE sometimes carries first-class philatelic journalism by first-class Czech and Slovak writers which could be of great value to our membership. What better area from which to obtain facts of Czechoslovak philately than the country itself. As will have already been seen, this journal does, from time-to-time, re-print from FILATELIE and, where deemed appropriate to do so, will again, we hope. We have a serious problem here though! Our translations have mainly been done for us by one person - Bob Kingsley. We would very much like to ease this burden for Bob and ask if any members would volunteer to be included in a panel of translators for this important work. Calls upon them would be minimal and their services to the Society would be most gratefully appreciated. If YOU could help us, will you please contact the editor who will be most pleased to hear from you.

QUERY CORNER

Glancing through a few of my very limited collection of postal history items from the 1939-45 "Occupation" period in Czechoslovakia, I came across what I considered to be a very interesting query on this official postcard from the District Court of Přebouč (east Bohemia) addressed to a woman at Lipoltice (German=Lipolticich), a village about 5km south of that town. Posted on 10 december 1941 the pc was received by the post office at Choltice (German=Choltitz), lying a distance of about 3km to the east of Lipoltice, the following day. It was here, presumably, that the two B-M TO PAY labels amounting in total to 60h were affixed in support of the scripted "60h" in pencil on the face of the card, presumably by a clerk in the p.o. at Přebouč. It was after I had asked Bob Kingsley if he would kindly translate the entire for me that my query became even more intense! Just below the TO PAY labels is a hand-applied cachet reading "Official Matter/ Subject to Postage". Why then was the card not stamped at source? It could be, of course, that this cachet meant the addressee had to pay the postage but enquiries have shown that this is not now thought to have been the case. A member who was employed in the Czech legal profession has no knowledge of such requirements. Should anyone have the true answer, I'd be delighted to know please. Of course, it could have simply been an oversight but something tells me that was not so!


(Ed.)

Okresní soud v Přebouči.



60h

Korespondenční listek.



Božena Brožková,

Služební věc

podrobena poštovnímu. v. Lipolticích čp. 54.

pp. Přebouč.

Jed. F. E. 14.

Jednací číslo D 335/41 - 1

Tato obsilka budiž přinesena.

Přijďte osobně dne 15. prosince 1941 do poledne

9.45 hodině k podepsanému soudu, do síně čis. 5.

Okresní soud v Přebouči

dne 1. dne 9. prosince 1941.

Předmět: V pozůstalostní věci po Marie Lenochové

Bob Kingsley (what would we do without him?) kindly translated the entire as follows:

TOP: Okresní soud v Přebouči = District Court in Přebouč. Korespondenční listek = Correspondence Card (postcard) and the cachet as quoted above.

BELOW: (Sideways-left): Please Bring This Summons With You; (top-right) File No. D335/41-1;

Text: Please attend in person at the court stated on 15 December 1941 at 9.45am Room 5.

Subject: In the matter of the estate of the late Marie Lenochova.

SUPPLEMENT TO POFIS CATALOGUE 1982

A.J.K.

STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 (Priced in Kčs)

DATE	POFIS No.	DESCRIPTION	FACE	MINT	USED
January 20	2778	World Cyclocross Championship 1987	6.00	6.00	3.00
	FDC	(cancel: Mlada Boleslav)			6.50
" 22	2779	Bowling (Skittles) 50th Anniversary	2.00	2.00	1.00
	FDC	(cancel: Praha)			2.50
February 4	2780	Czechoslovak State Decorations and Orders	.50	.50	.30
	2781		2.00	2.00	.80
	2782		3.00	3.00	1.20
	2783		4.00	4.00	1.60
	2784		5.00	5.00	2.00
	FDCs (2)	(cancels: Praha)			15.50
March 4	2785	Protection of Nature (Butterflies)	1.00	1.00	.50
	2786		2.00	2.00	1.00
	2787		3.00	3.00	1.50
	2788		4.00	4.00	2.00
	FDCs (2)	(cancels: Bratislava)			11.00

[Courtesy FILATELIE 9/1987]

CAN YOU HELP?

Alec Page has had an appeal from one of his contacts in New Zealand for 1938 CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST items.

If you have duplicates for exchange or sale, will you please inform Alec; he will then arrange for you to receive his correspondent's address.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Will members please note that it is the Society's policy NOT to publish names and address lists of membership - this is for your own security! Should you wish to exchange, sell, etc. or wish your name and address to be published for any reason, please write to THE EDITOR making this point very clearly, please. Also do please make sure you sign any such communication.